

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5512

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1129

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ZA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: LUSAKA 1083

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST J.H.P. SERFONTEIN, PRESIDENT KAUNDA WELCOMED OWEN'S VISIT BUT SEES IT AS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE AT THE MOMENT TO THE STRUGGLE GOING ON. WITHOUT FIGHTING NOTHING WILL EVER MOVE. U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ANY NEW CONFERENCE WAS REFERRED TO FAVORABLY BY THE PRESIDENT. "IF THERE IS ONE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH ONE WOULD SAY LET THEM PARTICIPATE, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY THE CARTER
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GOVERNMENT." HE HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT VORSTER WAS PREPARED TO APPLY PRESSURE ON SMITH OR THAT SMITH WAS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER. VORSTER IS MISSING HIS CHANCE IN NAMIBIA BY NOT DEALING WITH SWAPO AND THERE IS LITTLE HOPE FOR THE POLITICAL APPROACH BEING MADE BY THE WEST TO VORSTER ON NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN THE SERFONTEIN INTERVIEW
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

---LUANDA SUMMIT OF THE FRONTLINE WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OWEN VISIT BECAUSE THE FRONTLINE HAD STRENGTHENED THE INSTRUMENT FOR THE STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE. OWEN'S VISIT TO AFRICA WAS WELCOME BUT "WHETHER OR NOT IT ACHIEVES ITS OBJECTIVES IS AT THE MOMENT OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE TO THE STRUGGLE." PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PROVEN FUTILE IN THE PAST. "WE HAVE DECIDED TO BACK THE PATRIOTIC FRON IN ITS JUST STRUGGLE. WE SEE IT (ARMED STRUGGLE) AS THE ONLY WAY SUCH VISITS BY OWEN CAN BE SUCCESSFUL. WITHOUT FIGHTING NOTHING WILL EVER MOVE. WE HAVE COME TO THIS SAD CONCLUSION."

---PATRIOTIC FRONT IS NOT AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB. IF MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE BELIEVE "AS WE BELIEVE AFTER HAVING DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION" THAT NOTHING MORE CAN MOVE SMITH, THEY MUST COME OUT AND JOIN THE FORCES THAT ARE FIGHTING THE JUST STRUGGLE.

---THE BRITISH CANNOT MOVE ON THEIR OWN; THEY NEED U.S. SUPPORT (FOR UNDERTAKING A CONFERENCE). "I KNOW THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT RHODESIA WAS PRIMARILY A BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY. BUT I TOLD AMBASSADOR YOUNG THE U.S. HAD TO MOVE. I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT THE U.S. HAS COME TO ZAMBIA'S POINT OF VIEW." THE SUSPICIONS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ABOUT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IS UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE U.S. STAYED OUT OF THE PICTURE FOR SO MANY YEARS. "BUT NOW THE U.S. SAYS IT IS PREPARED TO CO-SPONSOR THE CONFERENCE ON ZINBABWE." "IF THERE IS ONE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH ONE WOULD SAY LET HIM PARTICIPATE, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY THE CARTER GOVERN-
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MENT, BECAUSE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LEADER OF THAT GOVERNMENT."

---THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT VORSTER IS PREPARED TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON SMITH OR THAT SMITH IS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER.

---THERE IS NO LONGER HOPE THAT VORSTER WILL DO THE RIGHT THING ON NAMIBIA. SOUTH AFRICA IS THE COLONIAL POWER IN NAMIBIA AND IF VORSTER WAS WILLING TO ABANDON HIS IDEAS OF RACIAL SEGREGATION, FORGET ABOUT BANTUSTANS AND LEAVE BEHIND HIS FEAR OF SWAPO, HE WOULD THEN BE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. BUT BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN WITH THE "COMMUNIST BOGEY," THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IS ON FIRE. "WE HAVE NO HOPE AT THE MOMENT IN THE SORT OF POLITICAL APPROACH THAT THE WEST IS MAKING TO VORSTER." TURNHALLE MAY BE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD BUT ONLY TOWARDS SETTING UP A SYSTEM OF BANTUSTANS. ---PODGORNY'S VISIT TO LUSAKA DOES NOT INDICATE A SHIFT FROM ZAMBIA'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. ZAMBIA HAS DIFFERED WITH THE USSR IN THE PAST JUST AS IT HAS DIFFERED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT ZAMBIA HAS NO PERMANENT ENEMIES AND

ENDEAVORS TO MWKE PERMANENT FRIENDS. ZAMBIA DIFFERED WITH THE
U.S. ON ITS SOUTH EAST ASIA POLICY. "ONCE THAT OBSTACLE WAS
REMOVED WE HAVE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS."
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COMMENT: KAUNDA'S REMARKS WERE TAKEN FROM THE VERBATIM TEXT
PREPARED BY SERFONTEIN OF HIS INTERVIEW. THE STATEMENT THAT
"IF THERE IS ONE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH ONE WOULD SAY LET HIM
PARTICIPATE (IN RHODESIA CONFERENCE), THERE IS OBVIOUSLY THE
CARTER GOVERNMENT" DID NOT APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF
THE INTERVIEW. ALMOST ALL OTHER KAUNDA COMMENTS AS REPORTED
ABOVE DID. KAUNDA COMES THROUGH IN THIS INTERVIEW AS MORE
PHILOSOPHICAL AND LESS EMOTIONAL ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVEL-
OPMENTS THAN HE HAS IN HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE DOES
NOT REJECT A SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS OUT OF HAND, BUT
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HE SEEMS TO BE GROPING FOR ASSURANCES THAT A NEW EFFORT WILL
NOT FAIL ONCE AGAIN. UNTIL CONVINCED THAT THERE IS A CHANCE
FOR NEGOTIATIONS, HE MAKES CLEAR THAT HIS SUPPORT FOR THE
ARMED STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE. HIS APPROVAL OF AN AMERICAN
ROLE IN A NEW CONFERENCE IS THE MOST FORTHRIGHT WE HAVE SEEN
MADE BY HIM OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF HIS GOVERNMENT. IT IS IN
CONTRAST TO WHAT HAS APPEARED IN GRZ-INSPIRED ARTICLES IN THE
PRESS AND IS MORE FAVORABLE THAN THE COMMENTS MADE BY FONMIN
MWALE (REFTEL). LOW

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